

~~SECRET~~
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Greece

DATE DISTR. 13 September 1948

SUBJECT Comments of the Charge d'Affaires of the Belgian
Legation in Athens

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. Referring to the statements made by the King of Greece concerning the question of the union of Cyprus with Greece, the Belgian Charge d'Affaires in Athens made the following comments:
- "The statements are helpful to the popularity of the King, however, none of the Belgian diplomats in Athens believe that the King made these statements on his own initiative, without the knowledge of the Greek Government or without the agreement of 'foreign circles'".
 - The king knows very well how the question of Cyprus stands from the English point of view from the time of its acquisition by the British Empire until the present.
 - In spite of the declaration which the British Government made during the First World War, according to which a way would be found for agreement as to ceding this island to Greece, various events have ensued in the international position of Greece and in her external policy which contributed to the change in the position of England. Therefore, it was understood by England that there would be no discussion of the Cyprus question in the Greek Government before and after liberation. Consequently, the Cyprus question is regarded as a question which affects the relations only of England and Greece.
 - Now, after the declarations of the King, the question of Cyprus has been transferred to the international sphere.
 - The Greek question interests us very much in its internal aspect, and we are following it with careful attention, because it is related to the decisions being made in the Benelux Council and in the directing bodies of the Western Alliance. Greece, however, because of the anomalous situation in which she finds herself, cannot be included in the Western Alliance for present.
 - There are, however, serious indications that the Greek problem will be satisfactorily settled through the crushing of the guerrilla movement which has greatly influenced the decisions of the Great Powers whenever the Greek problem was the subject of discussion between them. I believe that this moment is not far distant.
 - A great mistake was the decision of KKE to start the guerrilla movement

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and to form the Mountain Government without previously insuring the moral and diplomatic support of Russia and her satellites. Now the settlement of the Greek question will be made at the expense of the guerrillas and the Mountain Government, and the Communist front will be affected by it.

- h. Fortunately the Communist regimes will not be able to maintain themselves much longer. Various reasons, principally economic, religious, and racial, opposed to the feeling of peoples concerning (social) justice, appear in the course of time and create obstacles to the smooth functioning of these regimes.
- i. Examples of this have recently appeared in Yugoslavia and to some extent in Czechoslovakia.
- j. Whereas the Russians say that they have their followers in all the other countries in addition to the Soviet Bloc, the contrary is true on a greater scale in the stated under Communist domination, and at the first opportunity they will show it.
- k. The Communists in Greece form a special category. It is not difficult for them to deny their principles, particularly when they acquire a little property, and from this side they should not be regarded as dangerous.
- l. The Charge d'Affaires of the Soviet Embassy expressed the same opinion at a recent meeting, when he compared the Communists of Greece to a house built of cards, and added, 'So anyone sees that the important Communists in Greece were not born in Greece but mostly in the Pontus region and other Soviet regions. Fortunately the Greeks made the mistake of accepting the immigration of refugees and established them for the most part near the great urban centers. From Greeks of this category, and chiefly from those who did not realize their expectations and desires after their arrival from Turkey, was formed the KKE. Now if the peasants have helped and are helping the "resistance", this is due to the Occupation and to the lack of alertness of the Greek governments after liberation which have not handled these questions well. If order is restored and the feeling of security is established in Greece, it is feared that KKE may be irreparably ruined. Fortunately, however, not only the Anglo-Americans but also the present Government work to the advantage of the Communists. The question of the internal situation of Greece will be settled, when the time comes, among the Great Powers, and certainly the leftists will not be left to the mercy of the Greek Government and the para-legal organizations'."

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